

The Liberal Democrat

Published by
ABE L. HIEBERT

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HANDLING GOVERNMENT ROAD MONEY

How the \$143,207.40 now available through the federal aid road act for road improvement in Kansas will be spent is a question being asked by many persons. It is discussed by W. S. Gearhart, state highway engineer.

"The federal road appropriation will be increased approximately \$143,207 each year for five years," said Mr. Gearhart. "In this period \$2,150,000 in round numbers will be forthcoming from the government for road purposes in Kansas.

"The money now available may be used any time prior to July 1, 1918. In other words, the state has two years in which to spend each annual appropriation. If the money is not all spent within this time it reverts to the federal government to be re-apportioned among the other states.

"The federal government cannot pay to exceed 50 per cent of the expense of improving any road. The remainder must be provided from state or county funds. Since the constitution of Kansas prohibits the appropriation of state funds for highway work it will be necessary for the counties to provide at least 50 per cent of the money if Kansas is to take advantage of this federal aid. The counties can meet the requirements of the act either by means of the county road fund or by the Hodges benefit district law enacted in 1911.

"It is intended that the federal aid road act shall accomplish three things. It will stimulate interest in substantial road improvement. Better methods of road construction and maintenance will be practiced. It is intended to encourage the adoption of an adequate system of highway management in each state.

"The accomplishment of these objects will be affected materially by the number of miles of road built in the state, and the amount of highway improvement that can be made depends largely upon the funds available. This brings up the problem then as to what percentage of the cost of the improvement should be paid by the federal government.

"Is 50 per cent federal aid necessary to accomplish these objects, or will a less percentage of aid, and a larger mileage of substantial road

be of more benefit to the state? Several counties in making application for federal aid have indicated that they thought 25 per cent federal aid and 75 per cent county, township, and benefit district funds would be about right. One county has stated that if it could get 25 per cent federal aid the county could and would provide the other 75 per cent of the cost to build a road anywhere it was needed in the county.

"Since approximately \$2,150,000 will be available for Kansas from the federal government in the next five years, if the federal aid be fixed at 50 per cent, the counties providing an equal amount—a total of about \$4,300,000 would be available for this period. If the federal aid were fixed at 25 per cent, the counties providing 75 per cent, there would then be available a total of \$8,600,000 in this five year period and twice as many miles of substantial roads could be built as under the former plan.

"The highways of the state may be classified according to their relative importance as interstate or national, state, county, and local roads. It has been suggested that the highways to be improved with federal aid should be the principal roads of the state; that is, interstate roads having the greatest public utility.

"From published statements of the secretary of agriculture, it is clearly evident that it will be considered impractical by the department of agriculture, and not in harmony with the spirit of the act to distribute a part of this small appropriation to every county in the state, for no county would then receive a sufficient amount to accomplish anything, and the administrative expenses for construction and maintenance would be out of proportion to the amount of work done."—State Agricultural Bulletin.

Miss Zula Weidensaul entertained a number of friends at her home Tuesday evening, in honor of Miss May Fisher of St. John. The evening was passed listening to music and playing "progressive Rook." The hostess, assisted by her sister, Miss Blanche, served a delicious two-course lunch. The favors were red carnations. The guests were: Misses May Fisher, Mabel Grainger, Corda Buchanan, Desta Crackel and Dollie Hill; Messrs. Chas. Buchanan, Laurel Bartholomew, Herman Kimble, Ira Salley, Ernest Nickels and Oscar Couchman.

There are a few scattering cases of scarlet fever and chickenpox over town, but the cases are under control by the doctors and no epidemic of either is expected. Whenever we have nice weather during the entire fall months as we have had this year there is generally more or less sickness during the winter, but the recent snow and cold weather ought to put the quietus on any malady that tries to get beyond control.



DICKENS AND CHRISTMAS.

To English Author We Owe the Familiar Type of Yuletide Story.

To the genius of Charles Dickens was due the familiar type of Christmas story. The pioneer of all Christmas numbers was "A Christmas Carol." Thackeray called that tale of Old Scrooge and Tiny Tim a "national benefit." More than that, "A Christmas Carol" was an international benefit, carrying its burden of happiness across the Atlantic and disseminating its cheerfulness in every community in the United States. Millions of readers have smiled through their tears in the seventy-three years that the world has been the richer and better for having "A Christmas Carol."

Dickens wrote the story at the end of 1843 to relieve himself of the financial embarrassments produced by his rather lavish housekeeping. He was disappointed in the pecuniary returns. He received less than \$4,000 from the sale in its original edition. This is attributed to the very expensive form in which it was published. Four other Christmas books which followed, beginning with "The Chimes," were much more profitable. Then in later years the Christmas numbers of Household Words, to which the "Christmas Stories" were contributed, sometimes reached a sale of 300,000 copies.

In the end Dickens had little reason to complain of the rewards of his efforts in opening up the rich vein of Christmas fiction. He was acknowledged the supreme master in that field. Thackeray published Christmas books, but wisely refrained from attempting anything similar to "A Christmas Carol" or "The Chimes." In their own way, however, "Rebecca and Rowena," an unapproached masterpiece of literary burlesque, and "The Rose and the Ring," a delightful story for children, which retains its charm for their elders, are no less matchless than the two principal Christmas books by Dickens.

A Christmas Tree In Turkey

IN the far east rules and restrictions may be made to yield to influence with a latent force behind it, as instanced by this serio-comic incident found in Captain A. B. Townsend's book, "A Military Consul in Turkey."

A certain highly influential foreigner at Adrianople some years ago wanted a Christmas tree and ordered one from Sofia to come by train, but when the tree, an unpretentious fir about ten feet high, arrived at Adrianople station some one discovered that it was illegal to receive "plants" from abroad. "Yasak" (it is forbidden), said the custom house.

"Yasak," echoed the sentry on duty. The foreigner said whatever was the equivalent to "rubbish" and demanded the tree.

Here was a nice quandary for the authorities. Evidently it was a most fearful thing to receive a tree from abroad, and yet the consigne was capable of getting some one into very serious trouble if he did not get his tree, and he said he must have it within forty-eight hours.

Some one at the custom house soared above the difficulty. The tree was sent on to Stamboul on the Orient express, an eight hours' journey. It came back to Adrianople by the next train, and the person for whom it was intended received a notice that "a tree from Constantinople" had arrived for him and would at once be handed over to his messenger.

So the poor little Bulgarian tree had become a Turkish one, brought from Constantinople, and by that means it satisfied officialdom and served its purpose in the end.

Elite Beauty Parlor

Located Under Peoples State Bank

Announces Its Opening

Miss Cora M. Boulden, of Kansas City, is in charge and prepared to give the latest in Ladies' Hair Dressing, Shampooing, Massaging and Manicuring. Miss Boulden is an experienced operator.

Phone 201 For Appointments

Want to rent a three or four room house. Inquire at the Democrat office.

Judge Grinstead transacted legal business at Guymon the first of the week.

Miss Rachel Brewer will spend the holidays with her sister, Mrs. Fred Eldson, near Moscow.

Miss Maude Saunders returned Wednesday from Wichita to spend the holidays with friends and relatives in Liberal.

Miss Blanche Fuest returned Tuesday from Hutchinson to spend the holidays with homefolks.

Miss May Fisher, who has spent several weeks here with relatives and friends, will return Sunday to her home in St. John.

A bunch of young people enjoyed a skating party Wednesday night on the pond east of the railroad stand-pipe.

Mr. and Mrs. W. R. Molthrop left Sunday for an extended visit with their children in Chicago. From there they will go to New York after the holidays and perhaps spend the balance of the winter in Florida and Cuba. Mr. and Mrs. Molthrop are two mighty fine people and are entitled to a vacation. They figure on staying away about a year. Mrs. Molthrop's music studio will be closed until her return.

PUBLICATION NOTICE

In the District Court of Seward County, Kansas.

Zora E. Wood, plaintiff, vs. Charles E. Wood, defendant.

State of Kansas, Seward County, ss.

To Charles E. Wood:

You are hereby notified that you have been sued by the said plaintiff, in the District Court of Seward County, Kansas, and that unless you answer the said plaintiff's petition, filed in said action, on or before the 3rd day of February, 1917, said petition will be taken as true and a judgment and decree rendered against you granting to the said plaintiff an absolute divorce from you and setting aside, canceling and holding for naught the marriage relations now and hereafter existing between you; and granting to the said plaintiff the care, custody and control of the three minor children and granting to said plaintiff such other and further relief as to the court may appear.

E. C. WARFEL,
(Seal) As Attorney for Plaintiff.

Attest: G. L. LIGHT,
As Clerk of District Court.

FOR RENT—Two steam heated rooms with board at the Dormitory, 9th. and Kansas Avenue.
29-1f G. C. Matkin.

Miss Letha Hibbs, who has been suffering from an attack of scarlet fever, is recovering nicely at this time.

OilCake a Meal

Corn Bran Shorts Chops

C. M. Light Grain Co.

Chiropractic affords quicker and more permanent relief in cases of bronchitis than other methods. Call at Dr. Welch's office for booklet explaining bronchitis and its cause.

Lindsey Wright is in Craig, Colorado, this week looking up prospects for a new location. He and Cary may decide to go into the restaurant business out there if conditions are found suitable.

Official Statement

Of the Financial Condition

—Of the—

PEOPLES STATE BANK

at Liberal, State of Kansas, at the close of business on the 11th day of Dec. 1916.

RESOURCES

Loans and Discounts.....	\$155,772.02
Loans on Real Estate.....	6,808.61
Overdrafts, unsecured.....	5,804.85
Furniture and Fixtures.....	3,708.79
Expense account.....	
Cash items and clearing house items.....	2,671.82
Cash and sight exchange, legal reserve.....	77,857.30
Collection in Transit.....	
Total.....	\$222,900.37

LIABILITIES

Capital stock paid in.....	\$ 25,000.00
Surplus Fund.....	5,000.00
Undivided profits.....	\$ 2500.00
Interest.....	5,989.12
Exchange.....	77.59
	8,566.51
Less current expenses.....	
Interest and taxes paid.....	\$2,243.58
Individual deposits, subject to check.....	162,163.68
Certified Checks.....	170.00
Cashiers Checks outstanding.....	5,560.75
Certificates of deposit, due on or after 30 days.....	15,623.31
Total.....	\$222,900.37

State of Kansas, County of Seward, ss.

I, T. A. Tegarden, Cashier of said bank, do solemnly swear that the above statement is true; that said bank has no liabilities, and is not indorser on any note or obligation, other than shown on the above statement, to the best of my knowledge and belief. So help me God.

(Seal) T. A. Tegarden, Cashier.

Subscribed and sworn to before me, this 21st day of December 1916.

Bert DuBois, Notary Public.

Commission expires on the 15th day of Feb. 1920.

Correct Attest:

A. E. Blake
Paul W. Light
T. A. Tegarden Director
J. N. Evans
Frank G. Boles
Ezra Shorb

To W. F. Benson, Bank Commissioner,
Topeka, Kansas.

FOR SALE—Good buggy running gear, has mall wagon top on it also set nearly new single harness, will sell reasonable. Inquire at this office.
29-1f

Old papers for sale here.

Sunny Side Dairy Milk, 12 Quarts \$1.00

PHONE 137 E.

We Use Our Allotted Space

this week to wish you
and yours

A Merry Christmas

T. L. Gray & Son

Hardware, Furniture, Rugs
and Linoleums

Friendly Greetings
for the Holiday Season
and all Good Wishes
for a year full of
Happiness, Cheer and
Prosperity.

Feinbergs

OF COURSE

The fastest growing store in Liberal